Virtual private network

593. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any special scheme with affordable rates to enhance the network with Virtual Private Network (VPN) for the educational institutions in Kerala; and

(b) if so, whether any direction has been given to BSNL Kerala Circle to proceed with this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Sir, presently there is no special scheme for Virtual Private Network (VPN) for the Educational Institutions in Kerala. No direction has been given to BSNL Kerala circle. However, an MOU has been signed between BSNL Kerala circle and Government of Kerala for provision of Broadband to schools (Secondary, HSE & VHSE) in Kerala under IT @school project.

Network Enhancement

594. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal made by State Government of Kerala requesting for approval for using the balance amount in the originally sanctioned amount by Central Government for the network enhancement; and

(b) if so, the status of this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Components of the instant proposal were not within the provisions stipulated in the State Wide Area Network (SWAN) Scheme approved by the Government. Hence, the proposal was not further considered for approval and this was communicated to the Kerala State in February 2009.

New telecom policy

595. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the department is preparing a work agenda for the new telecom policy to suit the present conditions of the country and to compete with the private telecom players;

(b) if so, the groundwork done so far to compete with private players; and

(c) the critical issues before Government to tackle like spectrum allocation and pricing and a comprehensive agenda for future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Sir.